

*Keeping Maryland
healthcare safe.*



SPRING/SUMMER 2023 | NEWSLETTER

Annual Patient Safety Conference Focuses on Health Equity

"Inspiring", "Educational", "Thought-provoking"... these are just a few of the words used to describe our 19th Annual Maryland Patient Safety Conference held in downtown Baltimore on Friday, March 31, which was also live streamed to virtual attendees from across the region. It was an honor to again host one of the largest gatherings of healthcare safety and quality professionals in the entire country with over 900 attendees taking part in a day of learning, sharing, and networking.



The theme of this year's conference was ***Health Equity & Patient Safety: Facing the challenge. Making the change***, and focused on identifying the challenges to providing equitable care while offering implementable strategies for healthcare professionals seeking to change the inequities in the communities they serve.

The day's schedule was full of engaging and meaningful programming from nationally recognized leaders in the medical world, like Jerome Adams, MD, former United States Surgeon General. Dr. Adams presented the opening keynote address focused on social determinants of health and achieving health equity regardless of where patients live. As Dr. Adams reminded us, "People need to know you care before they care what you know."

*"People need to know you care
before they care what you know."*

-Dr. Jerome Adams

The closing keynote address was offered by Shawnee Benton Gibson, LMSW / FLDC- CEO/Co-Founder, Spirit of A Woman, LLC & The ARIAH Foundation. Her presentation, entitled “Speak, Move, Change: Creating Equitable Pathways to Patient Care” was moving and impactful for many attendees.

“Hearing Shawnee talk about her daughter dying from a pulmonary embolus less than two weeks after delivering her baby boy was an epic experience,” said Suleika Just-Buddy Michel, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., who attended the event. “She humanized our maternal statistics sharing her daughter's story, which is fully depicted in her movie, *Aftershock*. Her light and passion have fueled my commitment to health equity, with a continued desire to decrease mortality and morbidity for Black birthing people.”

Interactive breakout sessions provided a variety of critical information, including addressing health disparities for patients with disabilities and for the LGBTQ+ community, a presentation on [B.I.R.T.H. Equity Maryland](#) and improving outcomes for Black birthing people.

The poster hall featured innovative solutions to patient safety issues and offered the opportunity for interaction and additional learning and numerous exhibitor booths from sponsoring organizations featured leading-edge products focused on patient quality and safety.



We are grateful for all of the contributing organizations and the many attendees who helped make this year's conference one of the most important and impactful we have hosted.

“It is amazing to see all these professionals together in one place, working on solutions and being creative and doing great work,” said Jennifer Conrad, MBA, RN. “I go to conferences all the time and this event is so well organized and has such a great energy to it.”

Another important element of the conference was the recognition and presentations from the teams at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center for winning both our 2023 Minogue Award Winner for Patient Safety and Innovation as well as the runner-up, Distinguished Achievement Award for Patient Safety and Innovation. Along with these teams, we also honored the eight additional Circle of Honor winners for their incredible submissions during a dinner reception the evening before the conference. You can read summations of the Top Ten award winning submissions by clicking [HERE](#).



[Click HERE to view the gallery of images from the 19th Annual Maryland Patient Safety Conference.](#)

Maryland Patient Safety Center Launches New Perinatal Safety Series



Maryland Patient Safety Center's [Perinatal Safety Series](#) provides education to support your team in addressing foundational issues related to perinatal quality and safety. With over 400 registrants, this five-part webinar series is focused on safe staffing standards, team work and communication, fetal heart rate monitoring, documentation and liability in the perinatal space.

Click [HERE](#) to check out one of our upcoming sessions and stay tuned for future perinatal and neonatal webinar series announcements.

New Partnership Aimed at Stillbirth Prevention

The Maryland Patient Safety Center is partnering with **Count the Kicks**, an evidence-based stillbirth prevention program, to educate expectant parents in Maryland about the importance of tracking a baby's movements daily in the third trimester of pregnancy.



Stillbirth is a national public health crisis that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. For Maryland families, 1 in every 144 pregnancies end in stillbirth and families in the state are 6.5 times more likely to lose a baby to stillbirth than to SIDS.

[Order FREE Educational Materials](#) sponsored by the Maryland Patient Safety Center and learn more about downloading a Kick Counting app on the [Patient Education](#) page of our website.

B.I.R.T.H. Equity Maryland

Did you know black women are two times more likely to have severe complications in pregnancy than white women? And that 53% of maternal deaths occur during the postpartum period?

Our [B.I.R.T.H. Equity Maryland](#) program provides educational tools for non-obstetric providers to recognize and address the substantial disparity in maternal morbidity rate for Black birthing people in Maryland. We encourage clinics, federally qualified health centers and emergency departments to adopt this **FREE** program that includes CMEs and CNEs.

As a component of B.I.R.T.H. Equity Maryland, MPSC has created a [FREE library of patient education materials](#) including short videos and consumer friendly printable flyers.



For more information on the perinatal programs listed above, please contact Adriane Burgess, PhD, RNC-OB, C-ONQS, Director of Perinatal and Neonatal Quality and Safety:

aburgess@marylandpatientsafety.org

Caring for the Caregiver: Implementing RISE Program Continues to Meet Critical Needs for Healthcare Workforce

A lasting impact of the pandemic will be the increased awareness of the mental and physical challenges healthcare providers face in the workplace. The **Caring for the Caregiver: Implementing RISE** program has evolved over many years into a keystone initiative for MPSC and was designed to help organizations provide immediate, confidential psychological first aid and emotional support to second victims in need by utilizing trained volunteer Peer Responders.



One of the most valuable and rewarding aspects of the program is our networking events, the most recent of which was held in late April at the MPSC offices. More than 40 representatives from *Caring for the Caregiver*-trained institutions in multiple countries gathered in person and virtually to explore and learn from each other on several key topics:

- Peer support after workplace violence
- Diversity, equity and inclusion for peer support teams
- Peer support after severe maternal events
- Confidentiality and legality in peer support encounters

“We are just beginning our implementation of the program so this gathering was so helpful to give me new ideas and teach me some things I never would have thought about,” said Janet Emerson, Risk and Safety Specialist for Kaiser Permanente in Denver, CO. “It was exciting to make new contacts in similar roles across the country who are willing to help out.”

“Caring for the Caregiver is going to be a nice avenue for our providers to be honest about what’s going on with them and to offer peer support when they need it. It will go a long way in reducing stress and burnout for our team,” added Janet.

"[This program] will go a long way in reducing stress and burnout for our team,"
- Janet Emerson, Risk and Patient Safety Specialist

To learn more about ***Caring for the Caregiver: Implementing RISE*** and how it can help your organization, click [HERE](#).

A Message from the CEO

Dear Colleagues,

Throughout its history, the Maryland Patient Safety Center has earned a strong reputation as a ‘go-to’ resource for healthcare providers from throughout Maryland and beyond, taking on the sometimes-daunting challenge of improving the safety and quality of care provided to millions of patients each year.

Maryland is fortunate to be home to many world-class healthcare institutions and providers. In that regard, the work we do at the MPSC has a tremendous impact that extends well past the borders of our state and into other hospitals and health systems across the region, the country and even on an international level.

It has been a distinct honor for me to lead this organization for the past three years, through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. I am continually inspired each day by our dedicated team and roster of member organizations who make the work we do so rewarding. I have to look no further than our recent conference to see the transformational impact that our programming and efforts have. It feels good to see the resources we offer being put into practice by doctors, nurses and a multitude of other healthcare professionals. Perhaps even more satisfying are the challenges, solutions and new ideas our members and their teams bring to us as we strive collectively for continuous improvement in various areas of patient safety and quality improvement.

Next month I will officially retire as President & CEO of this organization. As part of our planned leadership transition, a nationwide search is already well underway to select my successor. I want to thank each and

every one of you who has helped make my time here productive, enjoyable and meaningful. The MPSC staff is a special group of hard-working people who make it all happen and will continue to do so working with the new President & CEO and our amazing Board of Directors.

A special thanks to all of our members, sponsors and supporters for making the work we do possible. The patient safety landscape will continue to evolve, and the Maryland Patient Safety Center is well positioned to remain a nimble, responsive and expert resource to meet future challenges head on.

I will continue to hold the mission of our organization close to my heart as I move into the next phase of my career and life. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this journey with you. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to make a difference at a historic and critical time in the history of healthcare and patient safety.

All the best,



Blair Eig, MD
President & CEO



Follow us on social media for the most up-to-date content and announcements:

-  /MarylandPatientSafetyCenter
-  @MDPatientSafety
-  Maryland Patient Safety Center
-  @MDPatientSafetyCenter
-  @marylandpatientsafetycenter